



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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U.S. Attorney's Office Hosts Faith-Based Town Hall Meeting - Thursday's Event is Second in a Series to Promote Dialogue -

WASHINGTON - The public is invited to join U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., clergy leaders, police officials and others from the U.S. Attorney's Office for a faith-based town hall meeting Thursday, June 2, 2011 at a church in Southeast Washington.

The program is from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, 3000 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. It will feature a panel discussion by U.S. Attorney Machen, leaders of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), clergy members, and a victim-witness advocate and others from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Crime victims also will be on hand to provide personal accounts about their own experiences with the justice system and to talk about the importance of getting witnesses to come forward in order to successfully prosecute criminals.

The initiative is a partnership between the U.S. Attorney's Office and faith-based leadership in the District of Columbia to encourage the community to become more involved in the criminal justice system in a variety of ways, including as witnesses and jurors. The town hall meetings provide residents with an opportunity to help the U.S. Attorney's Office identify and address concerns and pressing issues in the community.

The Faith-Based Initiative was launched in September 2010 at a meeting of the U.S. Attorney's Office and faith-based leaders East of the River. Participants at that meeting included Dr. Kendrick E. Curry, senior pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church.

The U.S. Attorney's Office hosted its first town hall meeting on December 11, 2010 at the Matthews Memorial Baptist Church, working with the pastor, Dr. Charles Matthew Hudson, Jr. More events are planned throughout the community in coming months.

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